

**MUR-046-USA-PCT****IN THE CLAIMS:**

Kindly cancel Claims 10 and 11 and rewrite Claims 1 and 12 as follows. The status of all claims in the case is also set forth below as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An adhesive gel composition for iontophoretic formulations, comprising consisting essentially of :

0.1 to 3.0% by wt. of ionic synthetic polymer(s) (A),

0.5 to 30.0% by wt. of one or more nonionic synthetic polymer(s) (B) selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl pyrrolidone and polyvinyl alcohol,

0.5 to 10.0% by wt. of naturally-occurring polymer(s) (C),

1.0 to 60.0% by wt. of one or more polyhydric alcohol(s) selected from the group consisting of glycerin, polyethylene glycol, propylene glycol, D-sorbitol, xylitol, mannitol, and erythritol,

a crosslinking agent(s), [[and]]

a drug(s) water-soluble steroid hormone(s) which form anions in the adhesive gel composition of iontophoretic formulations[[,]] and which can be delivered from the cathode side of the iontophoretic formulation, and

wherein in the composition  $(B + C)/A \geq 1.5$  and/or  $A + B + C \geq 7\%$  by weight.

2-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The adhesive gel composition for iontophoretic formulations according to claim 1, wherein the ionic synthetic polymer(s) is or are obtained by polymerizing polymerizable unsaturated monomers that have at least anionic functional groups.

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5. (Previously Presented) The adhesive gel composition for iontophoretic formulations according to claim 1, wherein the ionic synthetic polymer(s) comprises one or more substances selected from the group consisting of polyacrylic acid, partially neutralized polyacrylic acid, fully neutralized polyacrylic acid, methoxyethylene-maleic anhydride copolymer, methoxyethylene-maleic acid copolymer, isobutylene-maleic anhydride copolymer, isobutylene-maleic acid copolymer and carboxyvinyl polymer.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) The adhesive gel composition for iontophoretic formulations according to claim 1, wherein the naturally-occurring polymer(s) comprises one or more substances selected from the group consisting of gelatin, carrageenan, locust bean gum, dextrin, carboxymethyl cellulose and the metallic salt of carboxymethyl cellulose.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) The adhesive gel composition for iontophoretic formulations according to claim 1, wherein the crosslinking agent(s) is one, or are two or more selected from the group consisting of polyvalent metallic compounds, polyfunctional epoxy compounds and boric acid-based compounds.

10-11. (Cancelled)

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12. (Currently Amended) The adhesive gel composition for iontophoretic formulations according to claim ~~11~~ 1, wherein the water-soluble steroid hormone(s) is one, or are two or more selected from the group consisting of dexamethasone sodium phosphate, dexamethasone sodium acetate, dexamethasone sodium metasulfonbenzoate, hydrocortisone sodium succinate, hydrocortisone sodium phosphate, prednisolone sodium succinate and betamethasone sodium phosphate.

13. (Previously Presented) The adhesive gel composition for iontophoretic formulations according to claim 1, wherein the composition has pH ranging from 4 to 9.

14. (Previously Presented) The adhesive gel composition for iontophoretic formulations according to Claim 1, wherein oxygen dissolved in the gel is positively removed by replacement with nitrogen and/or vacuum kneading at the time the ingredients are added and kneaded.

15. (Withdrawn) A method for producing an adhesive gel composition for iontophoretic formulations, wherein oxygen dissolved in the gel is positively removed by carrying out replacement with nitrogen and/or vacuum kneading at the time ingredients including an ionic synthetic polymer(s), a nonionic synthetic polymer(s), a naturally-occurring polymer(s), a polyhydric alcohol(s), a crosslinking agent(s) and a drug(s), are mixed and kneaded.